



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Office of the Mayor

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**Stamford Animal Control Center Volunteer Policies and
Procedures Adopted by City following Task Force
Recommendation**

STAMFORD, CT – The Mayor announced Friday that the City has accepted the recommendations approved and submitted by the Animal Control Center Task Force regarding new volunteer policies and procedures to be implemented at the Animal Control Center.

Mayor David Martin applauded the Task Force's approval and recommendation of new policies and procedures, saying, "It has been a top priority to restore a volunteer role at the Animal Control Center, and I thank the Stamford Police Department and Task Force for this accomplishment. Over the years, volunteers have meaningfully enhanced the attention and care provided to the animals at the Center. It is important that we enable volunteers to contribute, while at the same time ensure the proper procedures are in place to protect the safety of volunteers, staff, and the public."

The Stamford Animal Control Center will begin accepting volunteer applications beginning on Monday, September 15.

The approved procedures include the following (full outline is attached):

- Applicants must complete a volunteer application.
- Applicants accepted into the program will be subject to a background check, meet with the Volunteer Coordinator for a one-on-one orientation, and undergo training.
- Volunteers will report directly to, and be under the supervision of, the Volunteer Coordinator, an employee of the Animal Control Center.
- Volunteers are not permitted to answer the telephone or interfere with the administrative operations of the Center.
- Volunteers are prohibited from performing duties performed by Animal Control Officers such as filling out adoption paperwork, responding to calls, evaluating animals, etc.
- Volunteers will not enter certain areas of the Animal Control Center. These include all quarantine areas, the kennel area, behind the office desk, or any city staff offices.

- Volunteers may handle animals only if the Volunteer Coordinator has approved them for animal handling, and after they have been informed about any issues there may be with an unfamiliar animal.
- Volunteers must sign the “Volunteer Hold Harmless Agreement and Waiver.”

“The Task Force worked hard with the Stamford Police Department to craft a set of policies that would make clear the role and boundaries of volunteers at the Animal Control Center. The Center has had an active and committed group of volunteers, and we are delighted that volunteers will again be able to contribute by providing socialization, exercise and basic training for the dogs, among many other tasks,” said Art Layton, Co-Chair of the Animal Control Center Task Force.

“We thank the Task Force members who have volunteered countless hours in researching, reviewing and drafting these policies and procedures. We also thank the public for their input as well as the City for its cooperation and support throughout the process,” said Eileen Heaphy, Co-Chair of the Animal Control Center Task Force.

Individuals may apply to volunteer at the Center by submitting an application to the Animal Control Center. Applications will be accepted beginning on Monday, September 15th and interviews will begin the week of Monday, September 22nd.

Individuals can download a form online at <http://www.stamfordct.gov/animal-control-center> and deliver the form to the Animal Control Center or submit via email to KWargo@StamfordCT.gov. Questions should be directed to the Animal Control Center at 203-977-4438.

In the coming weeks and months, the Task Force will turn its focus to items including updating pet adoption policies and practices, reviewing City pet ordinances, evaluating the relationship between veterinarians and the Animal Control Center, and building community involvement and awareness to assure strong animal control and care in Stamford.

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